

U.S. National Park Profiles

Washita Battlefield National Historical Site – small, grassland-riparian park in a highly modified landscape of agriculture and developed land.

Colonial National Historical Park – small, historical site on Eastern seaboard. Highly developed landscape, at mouth of rivers.

Rocky Mountain National Park – med-large mountain (headwater) park. Gateway developments, managed wilderness area.

Canyonlands National Park – med-large arid park at confluence of Green and Colorado rivers; highly modified hydrological regimes. High recreational pressures in some areas. Little vegetation cover.

Washita Battlefield National Historic Site



Park Information

Washita Battlefield National Historic Site protects and interprets the site of the Southern Cheyenne village of Peace Chief Black Kettle. Just before dawn on November 27, 1868, the village was attacked by the 7th U.S. Cavalry under Lt. Col. George A. Custer. The controversial strike was hailed at the time by the military and many civilians as a significant victory aimed at reducing Indian raids on frontier settlements. Washita remains controversial because many Indians and whites labeled Custer's attack a massacre. Black Kettle is still honored today as a prominent leader who never ceased striving for peace even though it cost him his life.



Park Boundary

Army Corp of Engineers

Interstate

Washita Battlefield National Historical Site, Oklahoma, USA

Purpose	Historical site of battle between US Army and Indians.
Area (km2)	1.27 (315 ac)
Ecological features	Tall and short grass prairie ecosystems Mix of arid southwestern eastern deciduous forest species Biologically significant riparian corridor Dramatic outcroppings of pink gypsum.
Visitation	About 15,000 / yr
Species issues	Lots of plants 6 or so species of concern
Stress/Impacts	Feedlots, overgrazing and agricultural practices in the park's Oil and gas extraction watersheds -> water quality Roads Lights



Rocky Mountain National Park



Rocky Mountain National Park

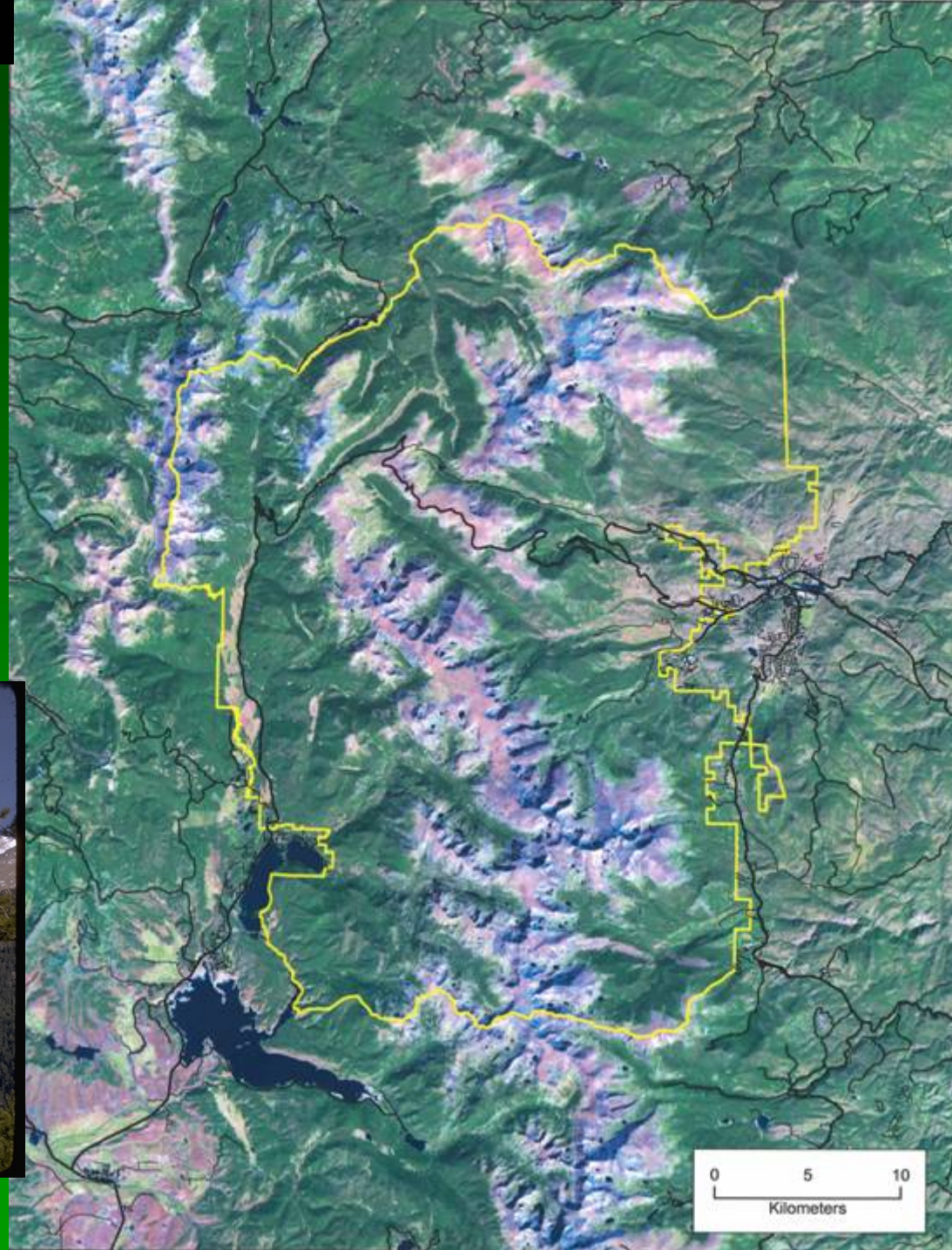
Est. for recreation and nature

1076 km² (265,000 ac), almost all above 8,000'

3,000,000 visitors / yr

Large mammals, scenery, montane to alpine communities. Endangered fish

“Overabundant” elk, loss of winter habitat and isolation; atmospheric deposition; fire; visitor impacts, invasive plants at lower elevations.



Canyonlands National Park, Utah



Canyonlands National Park, Utah

Preserve scenic, scientific and archaeological features

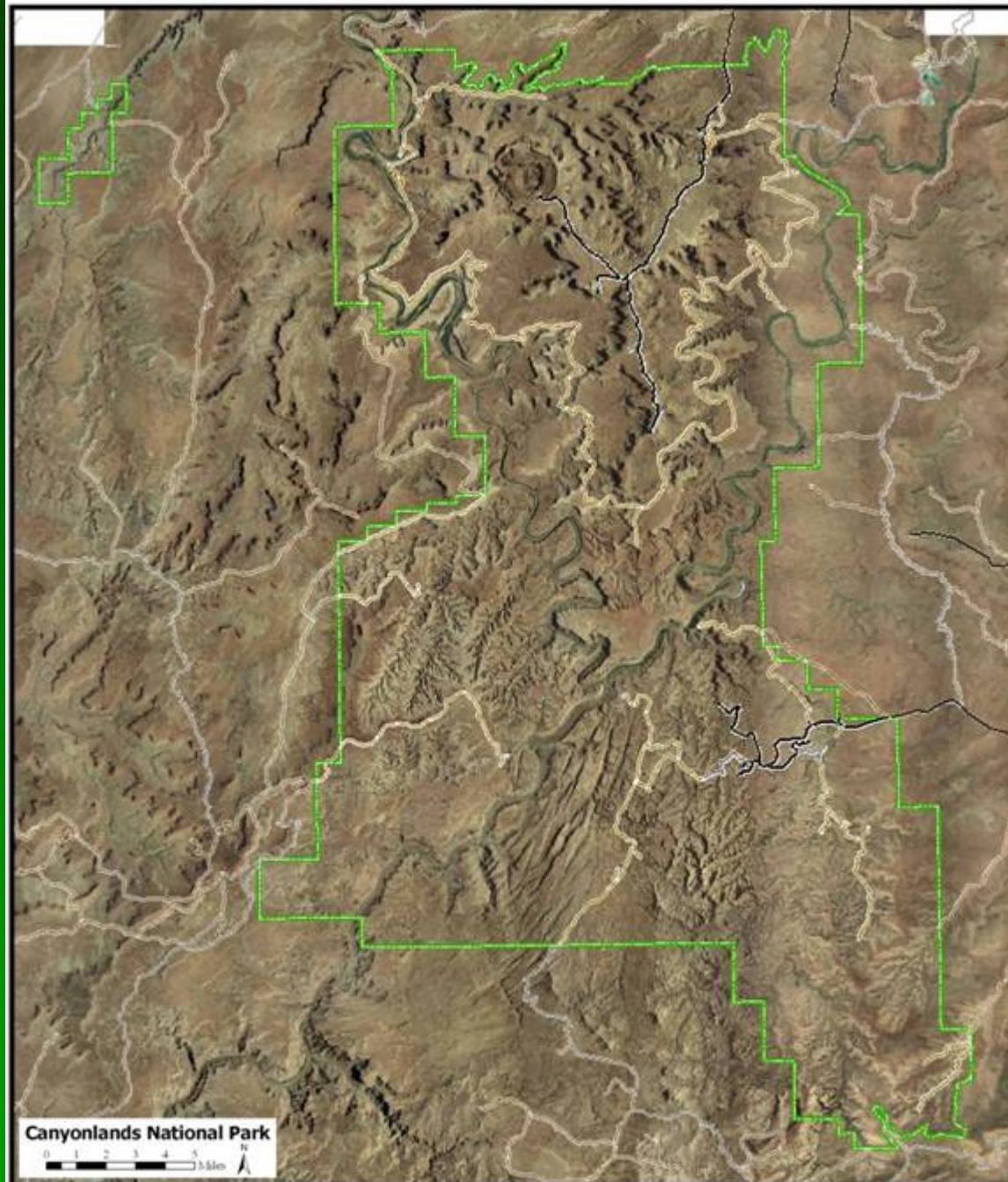
1,366 km² (378,001 ac)

375,000 visitors / yr

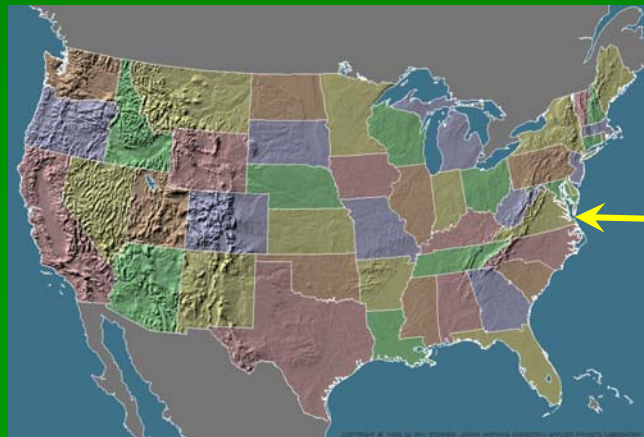
Redstone canyons; Colorado and Green Rivers; desert seeps, riparian habitats, potholes supporting rare communities. Crusted desert soils and associated communities.

6 T&E species

Altered hydrology in rivers; grazing in catchments; visitor impacts (mountain biking, hiking, pollution in springs, rafting, camping, etc), soil crust damage; invasive plants Disturbance to archaeological sites.



Colonial National Historical Park, Virginia



Colonial NHP

historical site of Jamestown and the Yorktown Battlefield

37.4 km² (9,241 ac)

3,300,000 visitors / yr

Coastal plains on James / York R. Streams, creeks & ponds; mixed pine and hardwood forests; wide variety of birds, mammals, fish, and invertebrates typical of the mid-Atlantic coastal plains .

Many R, T & E species

48% of water bodies in the park are impaired. Activities outside the park strongly influence water quality. Shoreline change, groundwater contamination, visitor/recreational impacts. Exotic species. Roads.





Colonial National Historical Park, Virginia